

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-27 are pending in this application.

Examiner rejects all pending claims.

Applicant thanks the examiner for granting an in-person interview with Applicant's representatives Won Joon Kouh (Reg. No. 42,763) and Peter Cronk (Reg. No. 32,021) on July 24, 2006 to discuss Applicant's proposed amendments to the claims. During the interview, Applicant's representatives discussed the features of the invention recited in the proposed amendments to the claims that distinguish the invention from the prior art of record as summarized in the examiner's Interview Summary.

Pursuant to the interview of July 24, 2006, Applicant hereby submits preliminary amendments to the pending claims as shown in the Listing of Claims, in conjunction with the accompanying RCE. Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 5, 12-16, 21, and 22 are amended. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 18 and 20 are canceled without prejudice.

After the entry of the amendments submitted herein, claims 1, 2, 5, 9-16, 19, 21-27 remain pending.

For the reasons presented below, Applicant believes that the amended claims are allowable over the prior art of record and place the present application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 11-15, 18-23 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States published Application No. 2003/0008586 to Kajander *et al.* ("Kajander").

As summarized in the examiner's Interview Summary, Applicant believes that the amended claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record including Kajander. Claims 3, 4, 6, 18 and 20 have been canceled and, thus, their rejections are moot.

Claims 2, 5, 11-15, 19, 21-23 and 26-27 depending from claim 1 are also allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 11-15, 19, 21-23 and 26-27 are requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajander.

Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled and, thus, their rejections are moot.

Claims 9,10 and 16 depend from claim 1. And as discussed above, because claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Kajander, the dependent claims are also allowable over Kajander. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9,10 and 16 over Kajander and their allowance is requested.

Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajander in view of U.S. patent No. 6,479,416 to Frank et al. ("Frank").

Claims 24 and 25 also depend from claim 1. And, thus, claims 24 and 25 incorporate all limitations of the amended claim 1. As discussed above, amended claim 1 is allowable over Kajander. And because Frank does not cure the deficiency of Kajander with respect to the allowability of amended claim 1, the combination of Kajander and Frank cannot obviate the claims 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Frank discloses a composite material that contains at least one formation of fibrous materials and aerogel particles, which is characterized by the fibrous formation containing at least one thermoplastic fibrous material with which the aerogel particles are connected and by which the fibers are connected to each other. (See Frank at column 2, lines 18-24). But Frank fails to teach or suggest, for example, either the wt. % of the plastic-containing bonding fibers in the liquid sorbent material of amended claim 1 or the density of the liquid sorbent material of amended claim 1.

Therefore, claims 24 and 25 are allowable over Kajander and Frank. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24 and 25 and their allowance are requested.

Terminal Disclaimers

Applicant submits terminal disclaimers with respect to the following three (3), commonly assigned, copending applications: Serial No. 10/823,065, filed on 04/12/2004; Serial No. 10/781,994, filed on 02/19/2004; and Serial No. 10/782,275, filed on 02/19/2004. Applicant hereby authorized the Commissioner of Patents to charge the terminal disclaimer fee of \$130 for each of the three accompanying terminal disclaimers for a total of \$390 to Duane Morris LLP Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the pending claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are kindly requested. Should the examiner disagree with the Applicant's position, a telephone interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of the application.

No additional claim fee is believed due for the filing of this amendment and response.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 14, 2006

s/ Won Joon Kouh

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